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Exit Allen Dulles

Director of the Central Intelligence Agency Allen W. Dulles will leave his post and retire before the end of the year. This was confirmed recently by the White House.

Press Secretary Pierre Salinger said there was nothing new in the Dulles plans—that the director had been asked to stay on in his job when President Kennedy took over the White House and that he had requested he be relieved after a year.

Dulles' tenure in the CIA was both long and controversial. The last year has been perhaps the most controversial period, for in that time the grim fiasco that was our attempted invasion of Cuba took place.

Thus he leaves his office at a time when the CIA, and his reputation, are at their lowest ebb in recent years. History alone will prove who was to blame in the Cuban interlude. At this time the CIA is sharing the blame for that costly failure.

Dulles' career as an intelligence officer, of course, dates back to the time when the United States did not have much of an intelligence service of any kind. In fact it wasn't until World War II that this country made a serious effort in this field. Now, of course, we make a major effort and maintain one of the largest intelligence services of any country in the world.

Whether we are as adept in this field as some of the older countries is a good question. But it would seem that Dulles has put the country on the road to building and maintaining one of the world's best intelligence systems. For this the nation is indebted to him.